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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7115
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 000188

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KWMN PHUM PREL CS
SUBJECT: SEEKING NAMES OF INFLUENTIAL WOMEN - REPLY TO ACTION
REQUEST

DEPT FOR WHA/CEN JASON MACK AND S/WE SASHA MEHRA AND GERDA LANE

REF: 2006 STATE 202341

¶1. Pursuant to S/WE request reftel, Post has identified six influential women in host country, drawing from both government and civil society (media, industry, and education).

GOVERNMENT

NAME: Laura Chinchilla
TITLE AND INSTITUTION: First Vice President of Costa Rica and Minister of Justice
CONTACT INFORMATION: Tel: (506) 280-7776
Chinchilla currently serves simultaneous roles as vice-president and justice minister in the Oscar Arias administration. She was minister of public security from 1996-1998 and a deputy in the national legislature from 2002-2006. She is an expert in judicial and public security reform in Latin America and has a master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University.

NAME: Yalile Esna Williams
TITLE AND INSTITUTION: Deputy in the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly
CONTACT INFORMATION: Tel: 506) 243-2372/2373
EMAIL: yesna@asamblea.go.cr
Esna Williams is the sole Afro-Caribbean member of the national legislature. She is involved in many social, economic, and security issues in the Caribbean area of Limon. This region is important to U.S. trade and security interests and would be even more so with an approved free trade treaty.

GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY

NAME: Mayi Antillon
TITLE AND INSTITUTION: Deputy in the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly
CONTACT INFORMATION: Tel: (506) 243-2006/07.
EMAIL: mantillon@asamblea.go.cr
Antillon is the legislative party chief of the majority National Liberation Party and plays a major role in the pro-CAFTA legislative bloc. She is a former vice-president of the Costa Rican chamber of industry.

EDUCATION

NAME: Clotilde Fonseca
TITLE AND INSTITUTION: Executive Director of the Omar Dengo Foundation
CONTACT INFORMATION: Tel: (506) 257-6263 / 222-1654
EMAIL: clotilde.fonseca@fod.ac.cr
The dynamic Fonseca was one of the founding directors of Costa Rica's educational informatics program created in 1988 by the Omar

Dengo Foundation and the Ministry of Public Education that has reached over one million children. The Omar Dengo Foundation promotes the economic, social, and human development of Costa Rica through innovative programs to improve educational quality. Fonseca is particularly interested in the use of technology to develop talent, creativity, and cognitive skills.

MEDIA

NAME: Amelia Rueda

TITLE AND INSTITUTION: News Director of Radio Monumental

CONTACT INFORMATION: Tel: (506) 232-4590

EMAIL: arueda@monumental.co.cr

Rueda has over 30 years experience in Costa Rican radio and television. She hosts a popular radio call-in program that discusses a wide-range of issues impacting Costa Rica. She interviews prominent Costa Ricans, including presidents and legislative leaders. Considered a voice of credibility in Costa Rica, even by those not in agreement with her views.

CIVIL RIGHTS

NAME: Sonia Picado

TITLE AND INSTITUTION: President of the General Assembly of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights

CONTACT INFORMATION: Tel: (506)234-0240

EMAIL: spicado@iagh.ed.cr

Picado has a wide range of experience in Costa Rican government and legal circles. She is a former national legislative deputy, ambassador to the U.S, judge in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and dean of the national university's law school.

¶2. The officer at post responsible for women's issues is political officer Andrew Prater (prateral@state.gov, 506-519-2256) until May 1, 2007 when political officer Dorian Hurtado (hurtadodx@state.gov, 506-519-2000) assumes the portfolio.

LANGDALE